

io8 *THE CASTAWAYS OF*
THE FLAG

" Can't you see that row of black specks ? "

John Block returned.

" They are penguins/³ Frank replied.

" Yes, they are penguins/⁵ Captain
 Gould de-
 clared ; " they look no bigger than
 crows, but
 that is because'they are perched so
 high up."

" Well," said Fritz, " if those birds have been able to get up on to the plateau, it means that on the other side of the cliff the ascent is practicable."

That "seemed certain, for penguins are clumsy, heavy birds, with rudimentary stumps instead of wings* They could not have flown up to the crest* So if the ascent could not be made on the south, it could be on the north. But from lack of a boat in which to go along the shore this hope of reaching the top of the cliff had to be abandoned.

Sad, terribly sad, was the Christmas of this most gloomy year ! Full of bitterness was the thought of what Christmas might have been in the large hall of Rock Castle, in the midst of the two families, with Captain Gould and John Block.

Yet, in spite of all these trials, the

health of
the little. company was not as yet
affected. On
the boatswain hardship had no more
affect than
disappointment.

getting fat," lie often said:
"yes, I